

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 SS-15 ACDA-07

OMB-01 MC-02 TRSE-00 /076 W

-----101929Z 117443 /43

P R 101518Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1690

INFO USDOC WASHDC

DOD WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, AU, IS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO AUSTRIA

REF: (A) STATE 105003, (B) VIENNA 3480

1. WE ASSUME THE AUSTRIANS WILL SOON LEARN THROUGH ISRAELI CHANNELS OF THE U.S. APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO AUSTRIA. THERE WERE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS RECENTLY THAT A POSITIVE U.S. DECISION WAS EXPECTED, AND SENIOR AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS QUESTIONED US AS TO THEIR ACCURACY. AT THE TIME, WE SAID WE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN OFFICIAL DECISION. THE AUSTRIANS WILL LIKELY BE QUERYING US AGAIN SHORTLY, AT WHICH TIME WE CAN CONFIRM U.S. APPROVAL.

2. IT IS ANOTHER MATTER, HOWEVER, FOR US TO INDICATE TO THE AUSTRIANS THAT WE FAVOR THEIR PURCHASE OF THE KFIR (REFTEL A, PARA 3). APART FROM THE POINTS MADE REFTTEL A, PARA 4, THE NORTHROP F-5E IS STILL IN CONTENTION FOR SALE TO AUSTRIA. NORTHROP IS NOW, WE UNDERSTAND, ENDEAVORING TO PUT TOGETHER AN OFFER TO THE AUSTRIANS WHICH WOULD GO SOME WAY TO MEET THEIR NEEDS RE OFFSET.  
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AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WOULD STRIKE THE AUSTRIANS AS STRANGE IF WE WERE TO POSITIVELY ENDORSE THEIR PURCHASE OF THE KFIR, AND WE RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY SUCH COURSE.

3. WE ARE ALSO NOT REPEAT NOT IN FAVOR OF TRYING TO CONVINCE THE AUSTRIANS TO OVERCOME THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT

UNFAVORABLE ARAB REACTION TO THEIR PURCHASING THE KFIR.  
THIS IS A HIGHLY DELICATE ISSUE FOR CHANCELLOR KREISKY  
INVOLVING AUSTRIAN (AND KREISKY'S PERSONAL) RELATIONS  
WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL. KREISKY MIGHT  
ACTUALLY WELCOME U.S. INTERVENTION AS A FACTOR IN THE  
DECISION MAKING PROVESS, BUT IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW THE  
PRUDENT COURSE IS TO LET THE AUSTRIANS MAKE THEIR OWN  
EVALUATION OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND DRAW THEIR  
OWN CONCLUSIONS.MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LOBBYING, MILITARY SALES, JET AIRCRAFT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 105003, 77 VIENNA 3480  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** APPROVAL OF KFIR SALES TO AUSTRIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, PFOR, AU, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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